

Council Highlights

January 5, 1996
Roger T. Kimura MD

The HMA Council was called to order by Dr Carl W. Lehman, President at 5:33 pm.

Those present were J. Spangler, President-elect; R. Kimura, Secretary; L. Howard, Treasurer; F. Holschuh, Immediate Past President; AMA Delegates: C. Kam, R. Stodd; Alternate AMA Delegate: A. Kunimoto; County President: E. Bade, Hawaii, M. Joshi, Maui, T. Crane, Kauai; Councilors: T. Au, P. Chinn, W. Dang, Jr, P. DeMare, S. Hundahl, C. Kelley, M. Shirasu, K. Thorburn, R. Wong, J. Betwee, B. Shitamoto, P. Kim, C. Kadooka, A. Bairos; Past Presidents: A. Don, G. Goto, S. Wallach, N. Winn; Young Physician Delegate: C. Goto.

HMA Staff: J. Won, N. Jones, B. Kendro, L. Tong, J. Asato, J. Estioko, A. Rogness, recording secretary.

- Dr Lehman reported that as HMA is becoming more involved in new projects with limited staff, some committee functions may need to be delayed as we prioritize our needs and budget staff time.

- The HMA Alliance (HMAA) reported: 1) The HMAA will launch its campaign on Stop America's Violence Everywhere, SAVE; the fund-raising campaign is ongoing and contributions have been received. In October the HMAA received proclamations on SAVE Day from the Mayor of Hawaii County Steve Yamashiro and from Governor Cayetano; 2) HMAA is involved with the Dept of Health in their quest to squelch smoking, the "Tobacco Free-Hawaii" project.

For Action

- A motion was carried by Council that information on Dr David Wong's needle incinerator investment be disseminated to all HMA members via the *HMA Newsletter* for personal investment purposes and that the HMA not invest in the project.

- A motion was carried by Council that the issue of HMA guaranteeing a line of credit of up to \$100,000 for the Credential Verification Service venture be referred to the HMA Finance Committee.

- A motion was carried that a reminder be sent in the next mailing to the HMA members that the law which states a patient is to be asked if he or she wants his or her symptoms/diagnosis printed on the label of the prescription bottle is in effect and needs to be followed.

- A motion was carried that Dr Lehman or his appointee look into the matter of the Medical Claims Conciliation Panel being active or not and report to Council at the next meeting and support the reformation of the panel.

- A motion was carried that the HMA contact HMSA regarding an evaluation fee for emergency room non-emergent QUEST patients and that the issue be referred to the HMA Organized Medical Staff Section.

- A motion was carried to refer the draft of the written agreement on an international loan to finance the HMA building to the Finance Committee with a report at the next Council meeting.

Component Society Reports

Hawaii.—Dr E. Bade, President, reported that Hawaii County had its Christmas party on December 10. Ruth Matsuura MD, a Hilo pediatrician was honored as Physician of the Year.

Maui.—Dr M. Joshi, President, reported a good turnout at the Christmas dinner. In February, they will have a speaker on tamoxifen and will be celebrating their secretary's 50th year with the county which will be held on the *Navitek*.

Kauai.—Dr T. Crane, President, reported that his county is very eager to get a jump on the legislative session and would like to have their plan presented to Council when it is formulated.

For Information

The 1995 HMA House of Delegates Speaker's Report.—The report

was distributed at the meeting and Dr Howard asked that each Council member review the report and respond to any actions that their committees may need to pursue.

DEA Numbers.—Dr Holschuh received a letter from a concerned physician regarding writing his DEA number on every prescription and/or giving his number over the phone to the pharmacist as a convenience for third-party payers. Dr Holschuh wrote to the Director of the AMA Organized Medical Staff Section, and he responded that the AMA policy is to not write DEA numbers on prescriptions, which was adopted at the June 1994 AMA meeting. The director also will look into this situation further.

Straub Symposium on Prevention and Management of Stroke.—The HMA supports this symposium which will be held March 14 and 15, 1996 at the Ala Moana Hotel Hibiscus Ballroom.

Independent Physician Network.—Dr A. Don reported that Pacific Medical Administration Group (PMAG) and the HMA have agreed to each place \$25,000 down to start the IPA and the prospectus is being done. Dr Don would like to show his presentation to the Neighbor Island physicians along with other programs, such as the Peer Review Organization and Credential Verification Service which HMA will be involved in for physicians.

Legislative Committee.—Dr Au reported that there is a twofold concurrent agenda for the Legislative Committee: 1) to continue to meet the immediate needs of reacting to legislative issues as they arise; 2) to have the Legislative Committee active throughout the year. During the legislative session there will be weekly meetings with the core committee members which is open to everyone. The purpose is to hear testimony, prioritize and triage it, and turn it over to the appropriate committees. Three meetings a month will be for the core committee to act on issues, one meeting a month will address long-term project issues. Some of the issues the HMA will be working on include revising loopholes in the current peer review statute, surrogate legislation, and prescriptive authority.

AMA Delegates Report.—Dr Kam prepared a written report and Dr Stodd reported that restructuring the AMA Federation caused the most controversy. Membership is going down on the national level as well as the local level. Loyalty is going more toward specialty groups or toward group associations. Dr Holschuh reported that in regard to the advanced nurse practitioner, the AMA's official policy is straight physician supervision. Dr Holschuh also reported that his resolution approved by Council and brought to the AMA on DUI and blood alcohol levels of .02 was overwhelmingly accepted and was referred to the Board of Trustees for study. He also reported that Jonathan Won, HMA's Executive Director, was honored at the AMA and given a plaque for 30 years of service with the HMA.

Annual Meeting Wrap-up.—Dr Shirasu reported that the scientific program evaluations were positive. The HMA staff was given a round of applause for a job well done.

Peer Review Organization.—Mr Won reported that HCFA will make a determination between March 15 and April 15 on the selection for Hawaii's PRO.

Great Aloha Health and Fitness Expo.—Dr Kimura reported that with physician coverage at the booths at the Expo, the HMA Executive Committee decided to participate. The date of the Expo is from Friday, February 16 to Sunday February 18. The booths were generously donated as a public service by Hawaii Vinyl Supply. More physician volunteers are welcome.

Restructuring Activities.—Dr Lehman discussed possible restructuring of the HMA and asked county societies to consider the question of consolidation into one organization. Resolution No 3 passed at the HMA House of Delegates called for input by each county by July 29. It would be best to receive input by June 1 so the Delegates know before attending the AMA meeting in June.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.